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TALES FROM THE TOMB

OCTOBER
1970
50¢

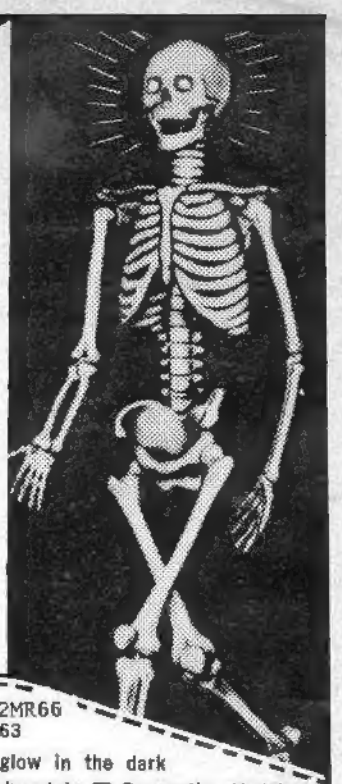
IN THIS ISSUE:
AN ELECTRONIC GENIUS MEETS
THE CREATURES

NO ONE CAN RESIST
THE CALL OF THE
MONSTERS

THERE'S NO ESCAPE FROM
THE SLIMY CORPSE

PLUS OTHER TERROR TALES FROM THE EDGE OF DARKNESS

MONSTER S-I-Z-E MONSTERS



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TALES FROM THE TOMB

CONTENTS FOR OCTOBER 1970 VOL. 2, NO. 5

THE SLIMY CORPSE 4

A fear-filled saga of a flesh-rotted corpse and a greedy diver. Ye-ech!

THE CREATURES 10

Twist the knob into a weird horror tale that will snap your spine. Ouch! It hurts!

UNTIL DEATH DO US PART 16

A ghoulish, sinister, evil tale of a genius and his monster. A real crusher.

CALL OF THE MONSTERS 21

A writer is locked in a web of fear that whips his brain into a terrifying view of the monsters. Gulp!

THE EMPTY COFFIN 27

The stink of rotting flesh choked the living in the House of Corinth. Who's got a gas mask?

FOREVER AND EVER 33

A shocking tale that will make you shiver and shake at the corpse locked in the frozen ice. Icepick, anyone?

FRIGID FEAR 40

A grisly and special story of a horrible man and a scheming woman.

DEATH IS NO STRANGER 46

A terror story of a talented woman with a cruel and murderous streak! Keep her away from me!!

CARL BURGOS, Editor IRVING FASS, Art Director
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SO, YOU'RE **GLUTTONS** FOR **PUNISHMENT**, EH, CHILDREN? JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH TERROR TO FILL YOUR **GHOSTLY** APPETITES? WELL, IF THIS **FEAR-FILLED** SAGA OF SUSPENSE DOESN'T SATISFY YOU **NOTHING** WILL! WE TAKE YOO **100 FEET** BELOW WATER TO PRESENT A TALE CALLED...

THE SLIMY CORPSE

YOU MAKE YOUR WAY INTO THE HOLD OF THE VESSEL...
NO SENSE WASTING MUCH TIME LOOKING FOR...
HEY, HAROLD! LOOK...A CHEST!

YOU BOTH GLIDE SLOWLY TO THE ANCIENT SEA CHEST... AND AS YOUR FINGERS GRIP ITS SLIMY LID, YOU FEEL YOUR HEART START TO POUND...
GOOD GRIEF, WALTER, YOU DON'T SUPPOSE...
I DON'T KNOW... BUT FOR PETE'S SAKE, OPEN IT! OPEN IT!

TREMBLING, YOU SHOVE BACK THE HEAVY LID... AND THERE, BEFORE YOUR EYES IS A FORTUNE IN GEMS!
HOLY COW!
YIPES! LOOK AT 'EM!

THE FORTUNE OF MIDAS IS AT YOUR FEET, ISN'T IT, HAROLD? YOU FEEL LIKE LAUGHING, DANCING... BUT THEN WALTER'S VOICE BREAKS THROUGH YOU...
THE OLD MAN PROMISED US A BONUS IF WE FOUND IT! THIS OUGHTA BE WORTH AT LEAST A THOUSAND APIECE!

YES, HAROLD... ALL YOU'RE GOING TO GET IS A LOUSY LITTLE BONUS!
A THOUSAND BUCKS! WHAT'S THAT? THIS STUFF IS WORTH AT LEAST TWO MILLION! USE YOUR HEAD, WALT!
WHATTA YOU MEAN?

WE CAN KEEP ALL OF THIS FOR OURSELVES! THE OLD MAN DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WE FOUND THE STUFF!
HEY! YOU'RE RIGHT, HAROLD!

And SO, AS YOU'RE PULLED TO THE SURFACE YOU LAY YOUR PLAN...
WE'LL TELL HIM THE CHEST WAS THERE... BUT EMPTY! THAT SOMEBODY BEAT HIM TO IT!
YEAH, THEN WE'LL WAIT A MONTH OR SO... AND DIVE AT NIGHT FOR THE JEWELS!

OLD JACOBY HOWARD IS DISAPPOINTED WHEN HE HEARS THE NEWS! HE SUNK HIS LAST DIME INTO THIS VENTURE... AND NOW...

EMPTY? IT--IT WAS THERE-- EMPTY?

THAT'S RIGHT, MR. HOWARD! CLEANED OUT! TOUGH LUCK, SIR!

AS YOU PREPARE TO GO HOME...

BY THE WAY, WALT... YOU BETTER NOT MENTION ANY OF THIS TO ELLIE! YOU KNOW HOW WOMEN ARE PRONE TO TALK!

GOOD IDEA! HAROLD, I WON'T SAY A WORD!

ELLIE IS WALTER'S WIFE... BUT YOU CAN'T GET USED TO THE IDEA ELLIE WAS YOUR GIRL ONCE! REMEMBER, HAROLD??

HAPPY ENGAGEMENT, DARLING! AND WITHIN A YEAR IT'LL BE HAPPY WEDDING!

OH, YES, HAROLD, YES!

BUT THAT WAS BEFORE SHE MET WALTER! HE HAD BEEN WORKING IN SOUTH AMERICA AND THEY MET A FEW MONTHS AFTER YOUR ENGAGEMENT PARTY...

I TOLD YOU, YOU'D LIKE HIM, ELLIE! GREAT GUY, ISN'T HE? MY BEST FRIEND!

HE'S WONDERFUL, HAROLD!

HEY, CUT IT OUT! YOU TWO ARE EMBARRASSING ME!

And WHEN ELLIE GREW COLDER TO YOU, YOU DIDN'T KNOW THE REASON, DID YOU, HAROLD? YOU WERE BLIND AS ONLY A MAN IN LOVE CAN BE...

ELLIE, WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'VE BEEN ACTING SO FUNNY LATELY!

ER... I'VE GOT A COLD AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO CATCH IT!

And WHEN THE TELEGRAM CAME IT WAS A BOLT FROM OUT OF THE BLUE...

WHAT? OH, MY GOD... NO... NO!!!

TELEGRAM

FORGIVE US HAROLD. WE WERE MARRIED TONIGHT. ELLIE AND WALTER.

BUT THAT WAS OVER TWO YEARS AGO... NOW WHEN YOU HAVE DINNER WITH WALTER AND ELLIE, YOU TRY TO MASK YOUR FEELINGS OF RESENTMENT AND BETRAYAL!

THIS GAL SURE CAN COOK, EH, HAROLD?

YEAH... SHE'S A FINE COOK! SWELL!

YOU WATCH THE LAUGHING PAIR AND FORMULATE A VINDICTIVE, REVENGEFUL PLAN...
WE'LL BE OUT IN A MINUTE, HAROLD!
TAKE YOUR TIME, BOY!
WHY NOT? I CAN WORK IT OUT TO THE VAST DETAIL! PLAN IT PERFECTLY!

LATER, WHEN YOU LEAVE...
REMEMBER, WALT... NOT A WORD TO ELLIE! AND YOU'D BETTER GET SOME EXCUSES READY FOR WHEN YOU HAVE TO BE GONE NIGHTS!
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, FOR WHEN WE GO DIVING! OKAY, I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING!

IT'S A MONTH LATER AND NOW YOU AND WALTER ARE COMPLETING YOUR FIFTH TRIP DOWN TO THE TREASURE...
THAT'S ABOUT HALF! FIVE OR SIX MORE NIGHTS AND WE'LL BE FINISHED!
BOY, I SURE HOPE SO! ELLIE'S BEGINNING TO LOOK SUSPICIOUS!

YOU AND WALTER ALTERNATE DIVING AND ON THE ELEVENTH NIGHT, WALTER MAKES THE LAST TRIP...
OKAY, BOY, THIS IS IT! I'M AT THE SHIP AND GETTING ALL THE REST OF THE STUFF!
FINE, WALTER, FINE! AND YOU'RE RIGHT... THIS IS IT!

YOU SLASH THROUGH WALTER'S LIFE GIVING AIR HOSE...
SO LONG, OLD PAL! TCH... TCH... A PITY TO HAVE TO GIVE UP THAT LAST LOAD, BUT NO SENSE BEING A PIG!

And BELOW, AS HIS AIR SUPPLY QUICKLY DWINDLES...
HAROLD! M-MY AIR IS GETTING THIN! CHECK THE LINE! QUICK!

SOMETHING'S WRONG, HAROLD! PULL ME UP! PULL ME UP!!
NOTHING'S WRONG, WALT! HA! HA! I JUST CUT YOUR LINE!

WALTER'S CRIES BECOME WEAKER AND WEAKER...

H-HARLD... (CHOKE) P-PLEASE... PLEASE... FOR-- (CHOKE)... ELLIE'S SAKE...

THAT'S JUST **WHY** I'M DOING IT, BOY... FOR **ELLIE!** SHE'S GOING TO BE MINE AGAIN, WALT... JUST LIKE SHE **SHOULD** HAVE BEEN! HAPPY LANDING, **SUCKER!**

AND WHEN WALTER'S LAST MOANS ECHO ACROSS THE DARK WATERS YOU HAUL UP THE END OF HIS AIR HOSE! WALTER IS DEAD AND **YOU** ARE A RICH MAN...

I IMAGINE ELLIE WON'T HAVE **TOO** HARD A TIME FORGETTING WALT WITH A FEW OF THESE BAUBLES AROUND HER NECK!

IT'S FIVE YEARS LATER NOW AND EVERYTHING HAS GONE EXACTLY AS YOU PLANNED, HASN'T IT, HAROLD? AFTER AN INTENSIVE SEARCH, WALTER'S DISAPPEARANCE WAS LISTED AS "OFFICIALLY DEAD" AND ELLIE MARRIED YOU...

I'LL BE HOME FROM THE OFFICE EARLY, DARLING! DON'T FORGET TONIGHT'S THE BIG PARTY AT THE PLAZA ROYAL!

I'LL BE READY, DEAR!

YES, THINGS HAVE GONE SMOOTHLY! YOU'VE OPENED A LARGE SALVAGE COMPANY AND EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T NEED THE MONEY, THE BUSINESS HAS DONE WELL...

...AND IN REGARD TO YOUR LETTER OF THE 14TH, I FEEL WE CAN SUBMIT A BID WHICH WILL...

YOU AND ELLIE HAVE A TWENTY ROOM HOUSE IN THE CITY AND A TEN ROOM "COTTAGE" AT THE BEACH WHERE YOU SPENT YOUR SUMMERS... WHO CAN DENY THAT YOU'VE GOTTEN AWAY WITH MURDER, HAROLD?

FIVE YEARS AGO **TONIGHT** I KILLED HIM! HA! HA! YOU MIGHT SAY IT WAS MY ANNIVERSARY! WASN'T THREE **MILES** FROM HERE... OVER BY THE OLD PIERSON DOCKS!

BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO AND YOU SMILE AS YOU PREPARE TO TAKE YOUR EVENING DIP!

HAROLD, HONEY, DON'T STAY IN TOO LONG! YOU KNOW HOW BAD THE UNDERTOW IS AT THIS TIME!

DON'T WORRY, ELLIE... I KNOW THESE WATERS VERY WELL!

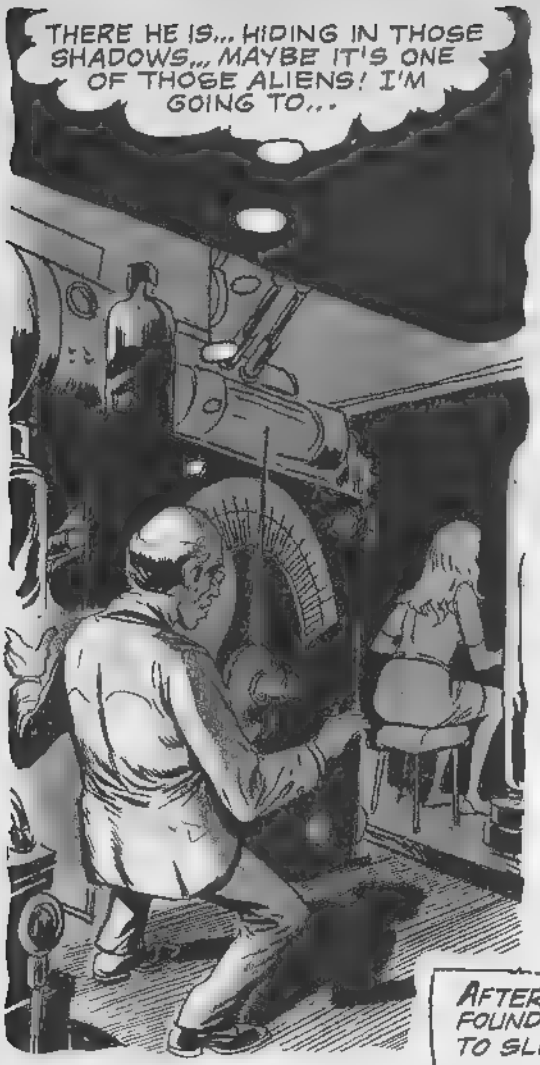
NOTHING LIKE A GOOD SWIM BEFORE SUPPER!

And WHEN YOU BEGIN TO TIRE YOU FLOAT ON YOUR BACK... BUT WAIT A MINUTE... WHAT'S THAT GRABBING HOLD OF YOU???
HEY! WHAT THE...
YOU'RE BEING PULLED DOWN INTO THE WATER AND WRAPPED AROUND YOUR STOMACH LIKE A STEEL VISE ARE THE HANDS AND ARMS OF...
A SKELETON! NO, THIS IS CRAZY! I--I--
BUT YOU CAN'T TALK NOW... YOU'RE UNDERWATER, STRUGGLING FOR YOUR LIFE... AGAINST A CORPSE!
WALTER! (CHOKE) GLUBB...
YOU'RE BEING WRENCHED DOWNWARD... YOU CAN'T BREATHE AND WALTER IS LAUGHING IN YOUR FACE!
WALTER'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, HAROLD... WAITING FOR REVENGE... THE FLESH HANGS FROM HIS ROTTED CORPSE AND HIS HANDS CLUTCHING YOUR THROAT ARE THICK WITH GREEN SLIME...
YOU'RE GROWING WEAKER AND WEAKER... THE STRUGGLE IS ALMOST OVER, HAROLD... EVERYTHING IS ALMOST OVER --YOU'RE DYING...
And NOW YOU'RE DEAD... AS THE WATER FILLS YOUR LUNGS AND YOU SLUMP TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA THE CORPSE ALSO CEASES TO MOVE... THE TWO OF YOU LIE SIDE-BY-SIDE... PARTNERS AGAIN IN DEATH!
THE END

THE LITTLE MAN TWIRLED THE KNOBS! THE SIGNALS FROM OUTER SPACE WERE GROWING LOUDER ... BUT WHAT HE DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT SOON HE WOULD SEE...

THE CREATURES

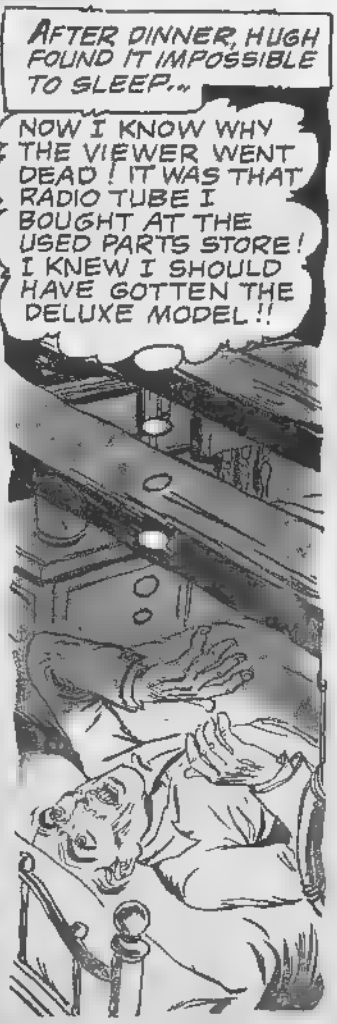
BUT THE VIEWER REMAINED BLANK! HUGH CARLSON, HOME INVENTOR TWIDDLED FRANTICALLY WITH THE DIALS... STILL THAT SAME GREY BLANK, ONLY THE SOUND GREW LOUDER...
ATTENTION ALL EARTH AGENTS! ALL ORDERS WILL BE TRANSMITTED IN ENGLISH AT THIS POINT! WE ARE APPROACHING YOUR SOLAR SYSTEM... WE SHALL SOON ESTABLISH CONTACT... AWK... SPUTTER...
I--I SAW A FACE! YES... IT WAS DEFINITELY A FACE! SOMETHING ABOUT EARTH! GOOD LORD!! THERE'S LIFE OUT THERE... I MUST REGAIN CONTACT!!
DA-DA-DA-DIT-DIT-DIT-DA-EEE EE E
OOOOHHHOOOOEOOOO
HUGH STRIVED TO RELOCATE THE SIGNAL... THEN HE HEARD...
...HAVE ORDERED OUR ARMADA TO CONQUER ALL RESISTANCE... YOU WILL MASQUERADE A WHILE LONGER UNTIL YOU RECEIVE FURTHER ORDERS... KILL ALL TERRESTIALS WHO BECOME SUSPICIOUS!
YOU CAN'T BLANK OUT NOW! I-I'VE GOT TO HEAR MORE! I'VE LOST THE SIGNAL! SOMETHING HORRIBLE IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO EARTH!
E
EOOOEE
OOOO
W-WHAT WAS THAT? SOMEONE'S IN HERE!


THERE HE IS... HIDING IN THOSE SHADOWS... MAYBE IT'S ONE OF THOSE ALIENS! I'M GOING TO...

HUGH! YOU FRIGHTENED ME!
JANIE! I THOUGHT YOU WERE... NEVER COME DOWN HERE!

WHEN I CALL YOU TO DINNER A DOZEN TIMES AND YOU DON'T ANSWER, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?
BUT-- I DID IT, JANE! I SAW THEM! THE ALIENS! THEY'RE GOING TO CONQUER EARTH AND...AND...

WHAT NONSENSE IS THIS? HUGH CARLSON...IF YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING AGAIN...
IT'S THE TRUTH! I'LL SHOW YOU! OHH...THE MACHINE IS DEAD! USED TOO MUCH POWER!!


AFTER DINNER, HUGH FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SLEEP...
NOW I KNOW WHY THE VIEWER WENT DEAD! IT WAS THAT RADIO TUBE I BOUGHT AT THE USED PARTS STORE! I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN THE DELUXE MODEL!!

MAYBE I WAS ONLY TUNED IN ON A TV PROGRAM! I'LL JUST RECHECK... I'M PROBABLY WORRIED NEEDLESSLY...
Y-A-W-N

THEN HUGH OPENED THE CELLAR DOOR... AND WENT DOWN!
YIEEEEEE!! SOMEONE'S DOWN HERE... AND IT'S NOT JANE! H-HE'S EXAMING MY SET! BET HE'S AN ALIEN! Y-YES! THAT'S IT! HE'S GOING TO KILL ME!

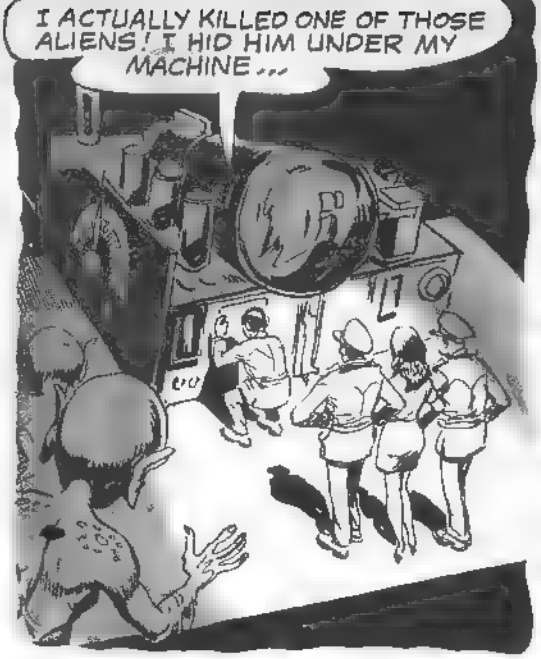
HE'LL KNOW I HEARD EVERYTHING! I-I'VE GOT TO DEFEND MYSELF! HE HASN'T SEEN ME YET!!

THERE! HA! HA! I FOOLED YOU!

A FOUL ODOR WELLED UP FROM THE DEAD ONE, AND HUGH LOOKED AND RETCHED! BUBBLING GREEN LIQUID TRICKLED ONTO THE FLOOR AND HUGH GOT SICKER...
IT...IT WAS ALIEN! OH, MY GOD! WHAT SHALL I DO? I CAN'T TELL JANE IT...IT WOULD UPSET HER HORRIBLY!

HUGH HID THE BODY AND WENT TO BED! THE NEXT DAY HE COULDN'T EAT!
ARE YOU SICK? WHAT WILL I DO WITH ALL THIS FOOD? WHO COULD THAT BE AT THE DOOR?
I-I DON'T KNOW...

HUGH OPENED THE DOOR AND...
PARDON US... BUT WE'RE FROM MILITARY INTELLIGENCE! WE'VE NOTICED RADAR SIGNALS COMING FROM THIS HOUSE!
OH-H-H! COME RIGHT IN! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU! I WAS GOING TO CALL YOU!


HUGH TOLD THEM EVERY-THING IN A FLOOD OF WELCOME RELIEF!
I ACTUALLY KILLED ONE OF THOSE ALIENS! I HID HIM UNDER MY MACHINE...

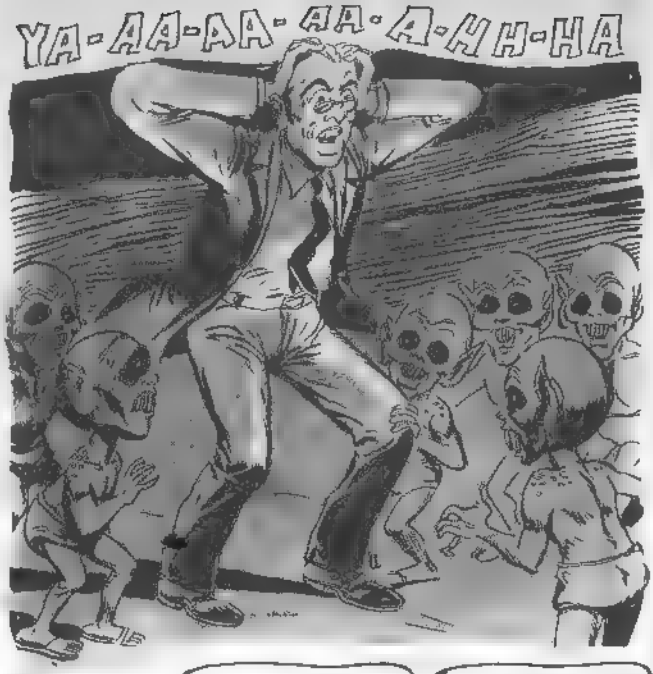
WHA-? IT'S GONE! BUT I HID IT THERE MYSELF! I SWEAR IT!
AH...YES! OF COURSE! WE MUST BE GOING, MR. CARSON! PLEASE DON'T USE THE ARMY FREQUENCY BEAM IN THE FUTURE!

HUGH HAD TO DO SOMETHING! WITH A BOUND HE REACHED THE CONTROLS, AND FLICKED ON THE SWITCH...
WAIT! SEE FOR YOURSELVES! LOOK!
HMMHMMM
EEE-EEEEOOOOEEEE

...IN SIGHT OF OUTER ORBIT... WILL BE LANDING SOON! ALL AGENTS! THIS IS STAND-BY ALERT! BEGIN INVASION PLAN!!

SEE?! SEE!! I TOLD YOU! WELL...DO SOMETHING! DON'T STAND THERE!! CALL WASHINGTON!! CALL THE NATIONAL GUARD! I'VE PROVED IT!! HURRY!
YES...YOU'VE PROVED IT BEYOND THE SHADOW OF A DOUBT!

W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?? Y-YOU'RE SHEDDING YOUR SKINS!
YES! WE ARE! AREN'T WE!!


YA-AA-AA-AA-A-HH-HA

HUGH CARLSON RAN! SOMEHOW HE FOUND THE STRENGTH TO PULL HIS WIFE AFTER HIM... OUTSIDE, THE HOUSE WAS A SCENE OF HELL!

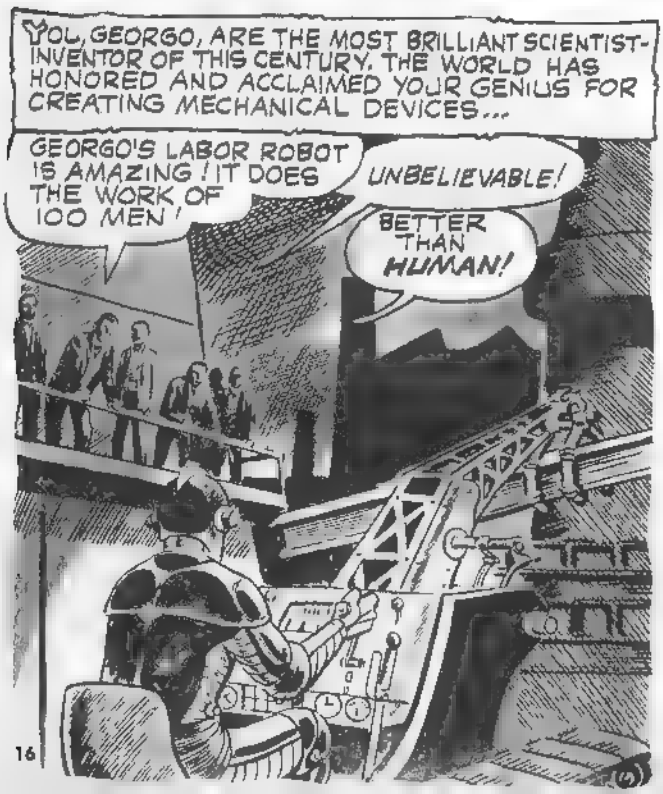
I-I DON'T KNOW? BUT WE MUST ESCAPE OR BE KILLED! WHY ARE YOU SMILING AT ME THAT WAY?
MAYBE BECAUSE I'M REALLY AMUSED, HUGH! BECAUSE I AM DEAD, YOU HEAR?

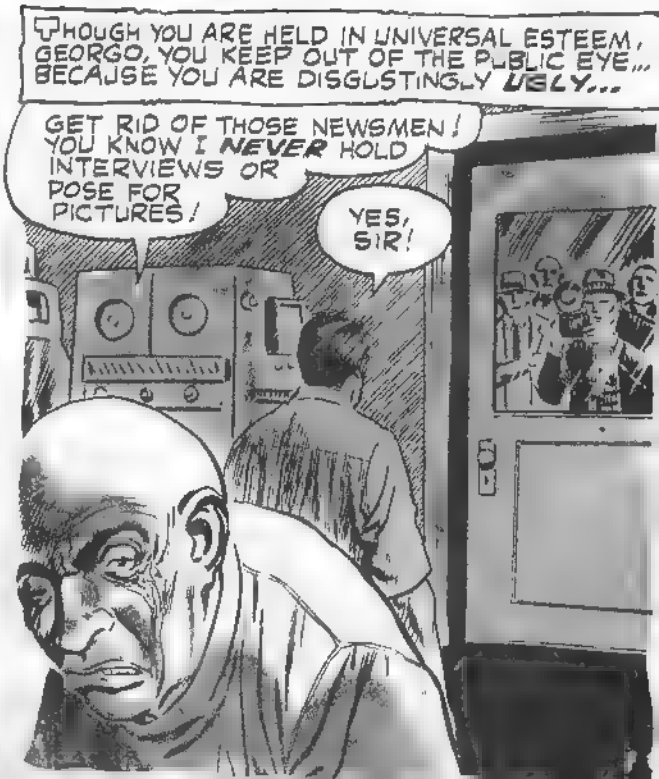
N-NO, JANE! Y-YOU CAN'T BE... M-MY WIFE...
YOU POOR EARTHLING FOOL! DID YOU THINK YOU KILLED ONE OF US? IT WAS YOUR WIFE THAT YOU KILLED!! ...WE TRIED TO KEEP YOU IGNORANT OF THE INVASION... BECAUSE WE WANT ONE SPECIMEN ALIVE! BUT NOW... IT'S HOPELESS... I SUPPOSE!!
And CARLSON'S WIFE WAS RIGHT... OF COURSE... FOR HUGH BECAME INSANE, SO THEY PLACED HIM IN A CAGE WITH A SIGN OUTSIDE TO EXPLAIN WHO HE WAS... SPECIES HOMO SAPIENS... THE LAST MAN ON EARTH!!

THE END

UNTIL DEATH DO US PART!

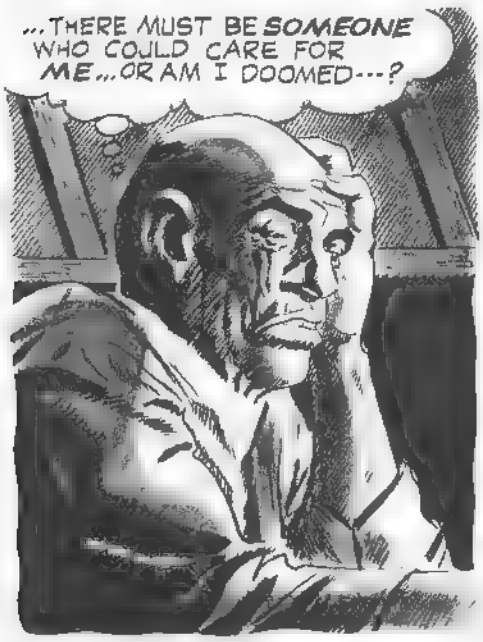
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS MADE OF METAL, WIRE, PLASTIC AND CLOTH, HER CREATOR CLAIMED SHE WAS THE *PERFECT WOMAN!* --BUT LIKE ANY OTHER WOMAN, ER... PARDON US... WE MEAN *MACHINE*... SHE HAD HER FAILINGS-- *DEADLY FAILINGS!!* READ ON, YOU WONDERFUL *GHOULS*... FOR A *SINISTER, EVIL* TALE OF *HORROR!!!*





YES... YOU SEE PEOPLE TURN AWAY AT THE SIGHT OF YOUR DISTORTED FACE!
LOOK... THERE GOES GEORGO, THE FAMOUS INVENTOR!
UGH! Y-YOU MEAN THAT THING IS THE WORLD'S MOST BRILLIANT SCIENTIST?

YEECH!-- I'D TRADE MY GENIUS FOR A WOMAN WHO COULD LOOK AT ME WITHOUT DISGUST!! WHAT A LONELY EXISTENCE THIS IS!


...THERE MUST BE SOMEONE WHO COULD CARE FOR ME...OR AM I DOOMED---?

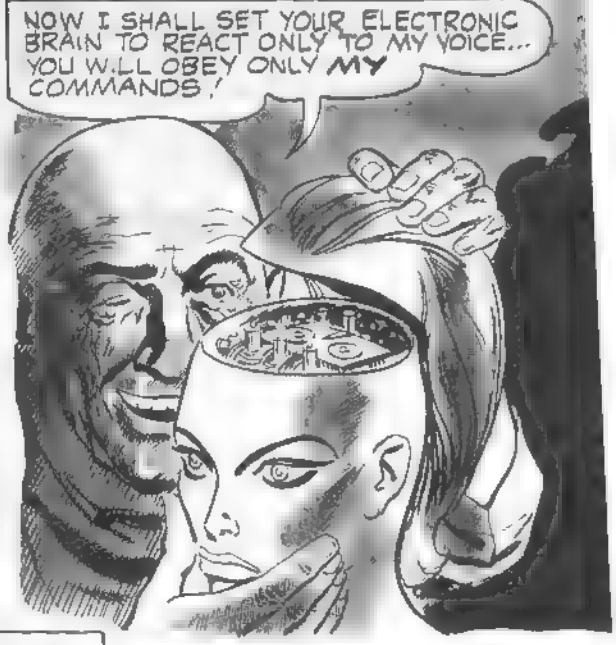
--TO CONTINUE LIKE THIS-- RESPECTED FOR MY BRAIN, YET LOATHED BECAUSE OF MY REVOLTING APPEARANCE!

...WAIT! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT BEFORE? THE PERFECT ANSWER! ... WHO IS BETTER QUALIFIED THAN ME?

YOU, GEORGO, THROW YOURSELF INTO THE TASK, CONCENTRATING YOUR TOTAL ENERGIES TO ONE DESIRED GOAL, THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR ENTIRE LIFE...
...IT'LL BE AN END TO THIS LONELY EXISTENCE... I'LL BE LIKE OTHER MEN...

AND THEN...
I'VE DONE IT! I'VE CREATED A WOMAN OF MY OWN! ...NOW, PERHAPS, I'LL FIND A LITTLE HAPPINESS!

YOU, DEAREST, ARE MY MASTERPIECE! YOU ARE ONLY METAL, FABRIC AND WIRE... BUT SO LOVELY!


NOW I SHALL SET YOUR ELECTRONIC BRAIN TO REACT ONLY TO MY VOICE... YOU WILL OBEY ONLY MY COMMANDS!

YOU PUT THE FINAL TOUCH TO YOUR ROBOT, GEORGO... AND PRIDE PUSHES YOU TO MAKE A PUBLIC APPEARANCE WITH HER!
...NOW, I PRESENT MY CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT! A FEMALE ROBOT! SPEAK TO THE AUDIENCE, DEAR!

...I...AM...HAPPY...TO...BE...WITH...MY...CREATOR...HE...IS...THE...ONL...MAN...I...COULD...EVER...LOVE.

...SEE? HERE IS THE PERFECT WOMAN WHO WILL NEVER FAIL TO OBEY AND WHO WILL NEVER LOVE ANYONE BUT ME! ...LIKE I SAID... SHE'S THE PERFECT WOMAN!!

HE MAY BE A GENIUS!...SHE MAY BE PERFECT! ...BUT THE WHOLE THING GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
GEORGO MUST BE CRACKING UP!

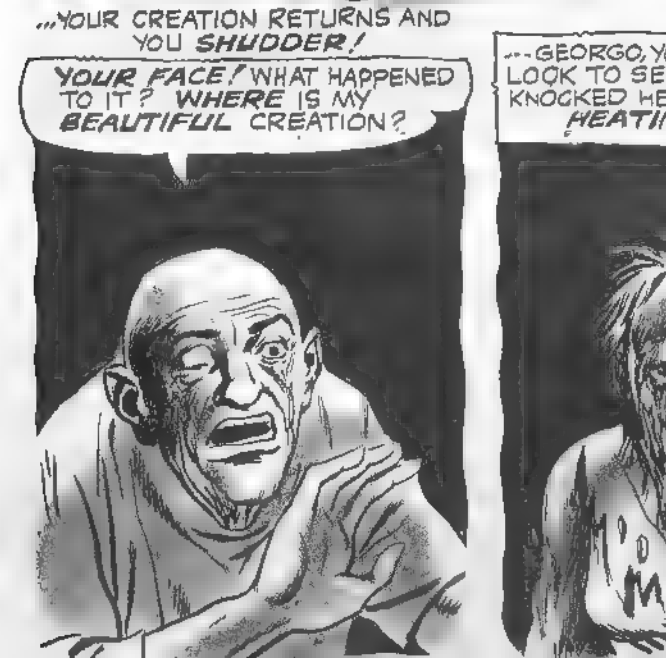
IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, GEORGO, YOU ENJOY THE DEVOTION OF YOUR CREATION...
...I...COULD...NEVER...LOVE...ANY...OTHER...MAN...!
THAT'S THE WAY I LIKE IT IT CAN'T BE ANY OTHER WAY!

BUT, THERE IS SUCH A THING AS TOO MUCH DEVOTION, AND GEORGO... IT IRRITATED YOU!
...I LOVE...YOU...I COULD...NEVER... LOVE...ANOTHER ...MAN...
GET AWAY! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT I'M BUSY!

...THEN YOU STRIKE!
CRACK!
I'M TIRED OF YOUR MONOTONOUS VOICE! MAYBE THIS WILL JAR YOUR BRAIN INTO SAYING SOMETHING ELSE!

STUPID THING! SHE SCREAMS AS THOUGH SHE'S HURT! WHOEVER HEARD OF A ROBOT THAT HAS FEELINGS?
EEEEEE!

...BUT THEN LATER, GEORGO, YOU NEED HER...
COME BACK TO THE LAB! I NEED YOU...SMOKE ...WHERE CAN IT BE COMING FROM?


...YOUR CREATION RETURNS AND YOU SHUDDER!
YOUR FACE! WHAT HAPPENED TO IT? WHERE IS MY BEAUTIFUL CREATION?

...GEORGO, YOU DIDN'T EVEN LOOK TO SEE THAT YOU HAD KNOCKED HER HEAD INTO A HEATING UNIT...
...YOU...ARE...THE ...ONLY... MAN... I... COULD... EVER... LOVE!
DON'T COME NEAR ME! YOU'RE HORRIBLE... DISGUSTING! STAY AWAY!

WHY...DO...YOU...NOT... PUT...YOUR...ARMS... AROUND...ME...WHEN... YOU...CALL...ME...AS... YOU...USED...TO... DO??
KEEP AWAY!! I CAN'T BEAR TO LOOK AT YOU!

YOU STAGGER BACK, AND CRASH INTO SOME BOTTLES... BOTTLES FILLED WITH ACID!

DEATH IS SWIFT AS POWERFUL ACIDS BURN INTO YOU... GOODBYE, GEORGO!
ARRGGH-H!

BECAUSE OF YOUR MANIA FOR SECLUSION... NO ONE SUSPECTS YOU ARE DEAD! UNTIL ONE DAY... A BURGLAR BREAKS IN!
THE PLACE IS EMPTY!

SUDDENLY...THE THIEF SCREAMS...
YEOWW

GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!
...THIS...IS...THE...ONLY ...MAN...I...COULD... EVER...LOVE...YOU... LEAVE...HIM...ALONE... OR...I'LL...KILL YOU!!!
THE END!!!

YOU CANNOT ESCAPE, RICHARD KARINE! COME-- YOU HAVE DELAYED US FOR TOO LONG! AHA, HA, HA!

NO, NO! STOP IT! I--I'LL NOT GO WITH YOU! HELP! HELP!

...CALL OF THE MONSTERS

RICHARD KARINE, MYSTERY WRITER, WROTE THE GREATEST HORROR STORY IN HIS CAREER! AND WAS LOCKED IN A DEATH-TRAP WHEN HE HEARD THE...

RICHARD KARINE HADN'T BEEN HITTING IT OFF TOO WELL RECENTLY! THIS WAS HIS THIRD REJECT, AND NOW HE WAS WORRIED! PERRY ANNERS, THE EDITOR OF CHILLING TALES LOOKED AT HIM DUBIOUSLY...

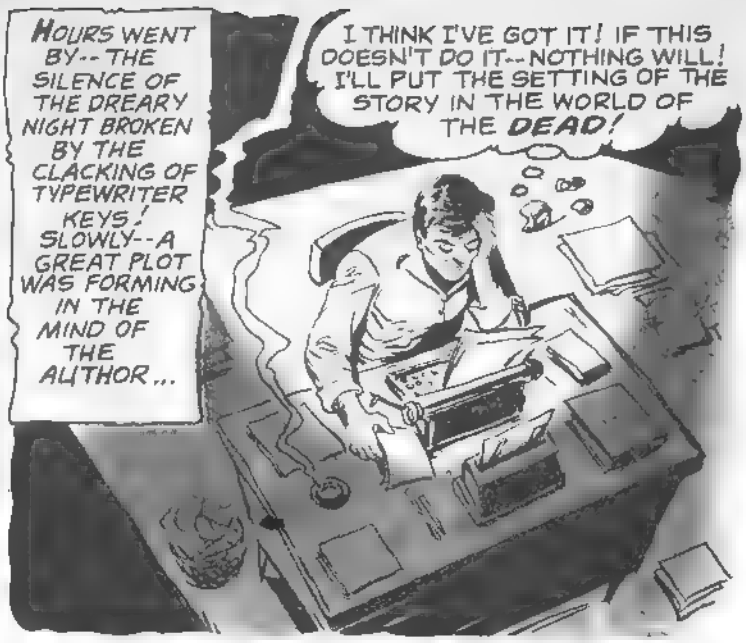
IT'S TERRIBLE, DICK... SIMPLY AWFUL! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? I CAN'T ACCEPT YOUR SCRIPT...SORRY!

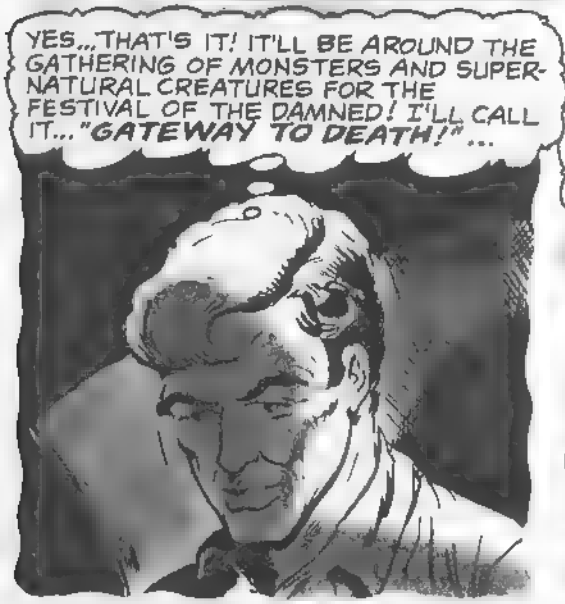
I--I TRIED... I GAVE IT ALL I HAD!

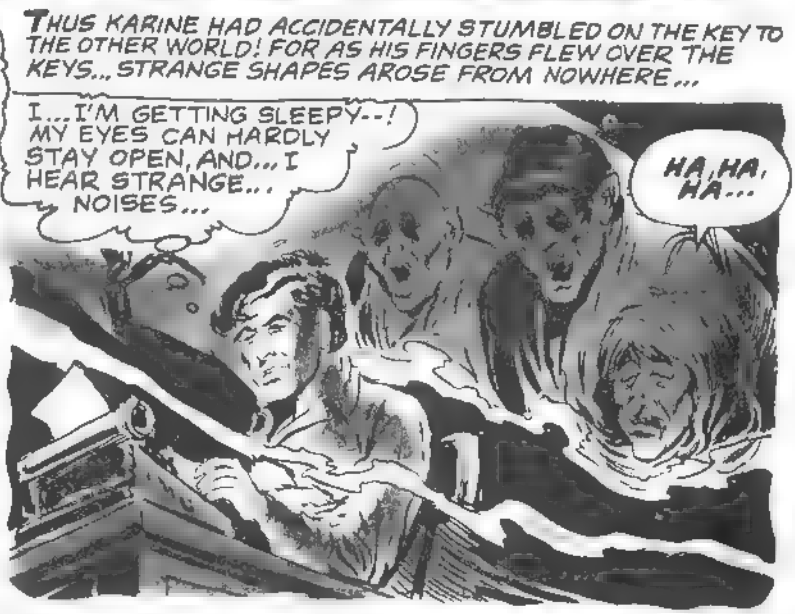
I KNOW YOU DID, FELLA...BUT IT SIMPLY WON'T STAND UP AS A GOOD STORY! LOOK! WHY DON'T YOU LAY OFF THE STUFF YOU'VE BEEN SWILLING ALL THESE MONTHS? WRITE ME SOMETHING CHILLING...REALLY CHILLING!

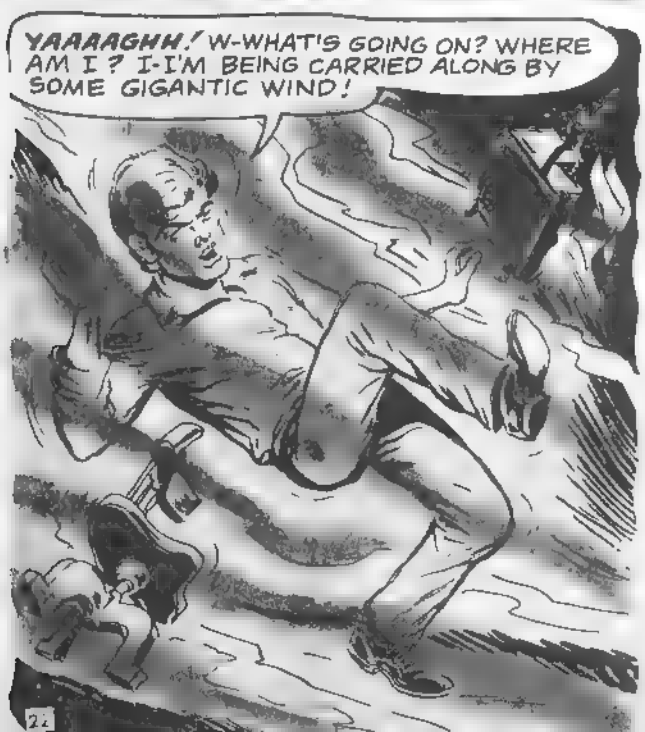
YEAH! OKAY, PERRY: I WON'T LET YOU DOWN...YOU'LL SEE!

AGH! THE SAME HAMMY JUNK-- I-I'VE GOT TO THINK OF SOMETHING NOVEL! I MUST! I MUST!


HOURS WENT BY-- THE SILENCE OF THE DREARY NIGHT BROKEN BY THE CLACKING OF TYPEWRITER KEYS! SLOWLY--A GREAT PLOT WAS FORMING IN THE MIND OF THE AUTHOR...
I THINK I'VE GOT IT! IF THIS DOESN'T DO IT--NOTHING WILL! I'LL PUT THE SETTING OF THE STORY IN THE WORLD OF THE DEAD!

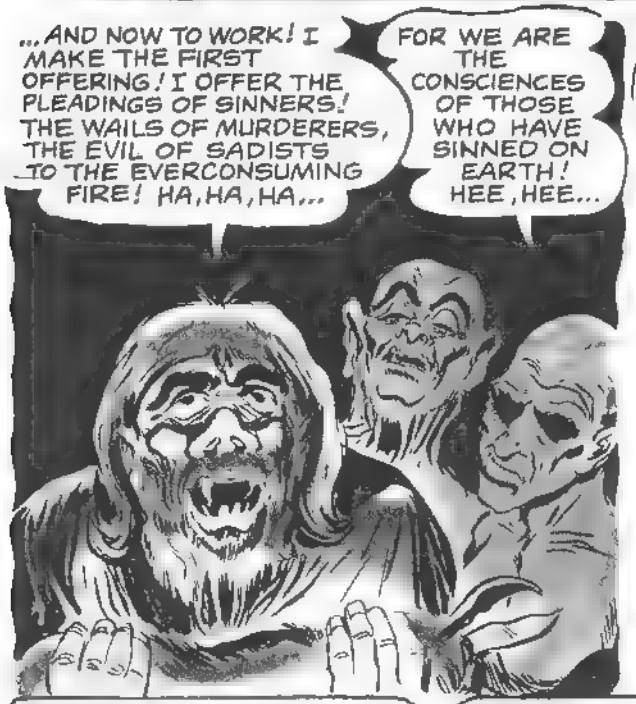

YES...THAT'S IT! IT'LL BE AROUND THE GATHERING OF MONSTERS AND SUPER-NATURAL CREATURES FOR THE FESTIVAL OF THE DAMNED! I'LL CALL IT..."GATEWAY TO DEATH!"...


THUS KARINE HAD ACCIDENTALLY STUMBLED ON THE KEY TO THE OTHER WORLD! FOR AS HIS FINGERS FLEW OVER THE KEYS... STRANGE SHAPES AROSE FROM NOWHERE...
I...I'M GETTING SLEEPY--! MY EYES CAN HARDLY STAY OPEN, AND... I HEAR STRANGE... NOISES...
HA, HA, HA...


YAAAAGHH! W-WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE AM I? I-I'M BEING CARRIED ALONG BY SOME GIGANTIC WIND!

MOMENTS LATER...
GOOD LORD! I--I'M IMAGINING THIS! IT-IT CAN'T BE REAL! IT'S FANTASTIC-- HORRIBLY FANTASTIC!

AND THERE... RIGHT BEFORE HIS EYES... WAS THE FESTIVAL OF THE DAMNED! THE SETTING THAT HE HAD DESCRIBED WORD FOR WORD IN HIS OWN STORY!
HEE, HEE... DANCE, BROTHERS! MAKE MERRY-- FOR EVIL SHALL RULE ALL SOON! HEE, HEE!
HA, HA, HA! KILL! KILL! GOAT'S BLOOD WE DRINK! MORTAL'S SOULS WE STEAL! HA! HA!

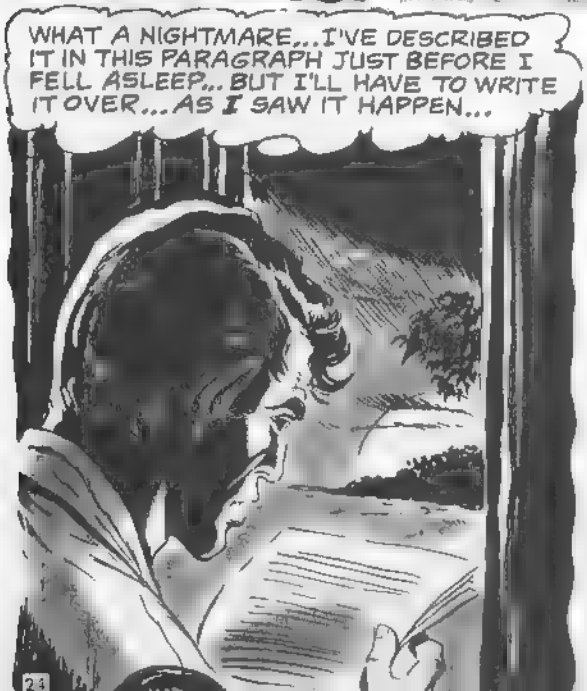

...AND NOW TO WORK! I MAKE THE FIRST OFFERING! I OFFER THE PLEADINGS OF SINNERS! THE WAILS OF MURDERERS, THE EVIL OF SADISTS TO THE EVERCONSUMING FIRE! HA, HA, HA...
FOR WE ARE THE CONSCIENCES OF THOSE WHO HAVE SINNED ON EARTH! HEE, HEE...

WHAT HELLISH EVIL... BUT I KNOW I'LL WAKE UP! HOWEVER, EVEN IN MY DREAMS, I HAVE TO PUT THIS DOWN! A DESCRIPTION OF THIS SPECTACLE WOULD BE THE GREATEST FIND IN MY WRITING CAREER!

BEHOLD! A MORTAL SPIES ON US! A MORTAL HAS BROKEN THE VEIL OF THE OTHER WORLD!
AFTER HIM! TEAR OUT HIS HEART! CLAW OUT HIS EYES... AND EAT HIS LIVER!

AIIEEE! THEY'VE SEEN ME! THIS CAN'T BE REAL... I'VE GOT TO ESCAPE!
DEATH TO HIM! SMOKE HIS CARCASS OVER THE FLAMES!

THE WIND BURNED HIS FACE AS HE FELL, VOICES, MOCKING LAUGHTER, THEN BLACKNESS AND OBLIVION... FOLLOWED BY A REVOLVING BALL WHICH INCREASED TO WHITE VISIBILITY AND FINALLY CONSCIOUSNESS...



WHAT DEEP GLIMMER OF THOUGHT LAY IN THE BRAIN OF THIS MAN? WHAT HAD MADE HIM STUMBLE ON THE SECRET DESCRIPTION OF THE OTHER WORLD? THE NEXT DAY...
MY MIND IS FRESH AGAIN! AND YET--I STILL CAN RECALL THOSE INCREDIBLE HALLUCINATIONS OF LAST NIGHT! LET'S SEE... HOW SHALL I BEGIN?

HOUR AFTER HOUR, KARINE WROTE, REVISED, EMBELLISHED, MODIFIED HIS MANUSCRIPT! HOUR AFTER HOUR--THE SECONDS OF HIS LIFE INTO ETERNITY--FOR HE WAS RAPIDLY APPROACHING DEATH...

IT WAS MIDNIGHT WHEN HE PUT DOWN THE LAST WORD OF THE LAST SENTENCE...
WHEW! WELL IT'S DONE! THIS IS MY BEST STORY... AND I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE PERRY'S FACE WHEN HE READS IT! I'LL...

THEN...
YOU! YAAAHH!
WE WAITED FOR YOU TO WRITE YOUR STORY! WE WAITED UNTIL YOU OPENED UP THE GATEWAY TO YOUR WORLD! NOW YOU CANNOT HIDE FROM US ANY LONGER!

HA, HA, AHA, HA... HA, HA--
I'VE GOT TO LOSE 'EM! GASP--GASP--THIS IS NO WILD NIGHTMARE ANY MORE! THIS IS REAL... HORRIBLY REAL!

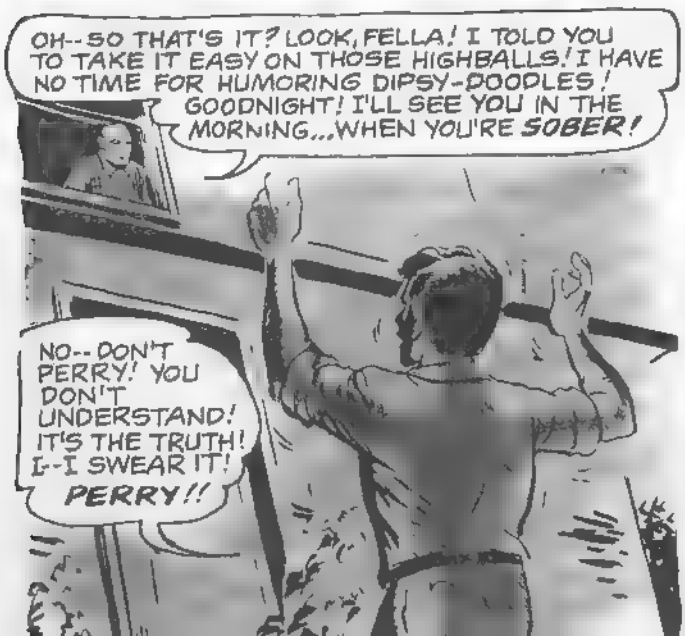
PUFF--PUFF--I-I THINK I GOT AWAY! I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING! THEY'LL NEVER FIND ME IN THIS ALLEYWAY!

HA, HA, HA... TURN AROUND, RICHARD KARINE... TURN AROUND AND LOOK UPON US!
YAAA-- AAA AAH!

THEY'RE BEHIND ME ALL THE TIME, THOUGH I CAN'T SEE THEM...ONLY PERRY CAN HELP ME! HE WAS THE ONE WHO STARTED ME ON THIS NIGHTMARE!

ANNERS! LET ME IN! WAKE UP! WAKE UP!

DICK KARINE--! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHAT'S THE IDEA OF WAKING ME UP?
PERRY--YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME! THEY'RE AFTER ME... ALL THE DEMONS OF HELL! PLEASE...YOU HAVE TO HELP ME! DON'T LET THEM TAKE ME AWAY!


OH--SO THAT'S IT? LOOK, FELLA! I TOLD YOU TO TAKE IT EASY ON THOSE HIGHBALLS! I HAVE NO TIME FOR HUMORING DIPSY-DOODLES! GOODNIGHT! I'LL SEE YOU IN THE MORNING...WHEN YOU'RE SOBER!
NO--DON'T PERRY! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! IT'S THE TRUTH! I--I SWEAR IT! PERRY!!

HE DIDN'T BELIEVE ME! STAY AWAY! STAY AWAY!!

The EMPTY COFFIN

A MIASMA OF DEATH AND DECAY, LIKE THE RANK ODOR OF ROTTING FLESH, HUNG OVER THE HOUSE OF CORINTH! THERE WAS MADNESS IN THE VERY AIR! AND TO ADD TO THE TERROR WAS THE UNRELENTING SPECTRE OF THE JEALOUS GHOST...

IT DID NOT TAKE ROSE TALLON, PAID COMPANION TO MRS. MAURY CORINTH, LONG TO GET HER HOOKS INTO HER EMPLOYERS HUSBAND...

WHILE MRS. MAURY CORINTH, LAST OF A FAMOUS SOUTHERN FAMILY, IS UNSUSPECTING...

SO NICE FOR DEAR MAURY! I'M NOT VERY GOOD COMPANY, CRIPPLED AS I AM! SHE'S ALMOST AS MUCH HIS COMPANION AS MINE!

HELLO, DEAR! WE WENT FOR A LITTLE WALK!

TIME FOR YOU TO BE IN BED, MRS. CORINTH!

I SUPPOSE SO! GOODNIGHT, MAURY!

GOODNIGHT, DEAR!

THAT NIGHT THE CRIPPLED WOMAN MAKES A STRANGE REMARK...

YOU'VE BEEN HERE A MONTH NOW, ROSE! TELL ME — HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING STRANGE ABOUT MAURY?

ANYTHING STRANGE? NO, OF COURSE NOT! WHY?

OH, NOTHING! FORGET IT! PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T HAVE MENTIONED IT AFTER ALL! THE POOR MAN IS **SO** MUCH BETTER THESE DAYS! GOODNIGHT, ROSE!

NOW WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE MEANT BY THAT? HMMM— MAYBE SHE'S GETTING WISE TO ME. THAT MEANS I HAD BETTER ACT FAST!

SO A FEW NIGHTS LATER...

HA-HAH — THIS WILL BE THE END OF MRS. MAURY CORINTH! IT OVERSTIMULATES THE HEART AND LEAVES NO TRACES! HER DOCTOR WILL THINK IT WAS A HEART ATTACK!

TIME FOR YOUR TEA, MRS. CORINTH!
YES! I HOPE TO SLEEP WELL TONIGHT. A NICE LONG SLEEP!

DON'T WORRY! YOU'LL SLEEP WELL — YOU'LL SLEEP FOREVER!

AHHHH—MY THROAT IS BURNING! THE TEA! Y—YOU POISONED ME!
YES, YOU FOOL! I WANT YOUR HUSBAND—AND YOUR MONEY.

ALL GOES WELL! THE WIFE IS BURIED IN THE FAMILY VAULT, AND NOT EVEN HER HUSBAND SUSPECTS THAT SHE WAS MURDERED...
POOR WOMAN! SHE LOVED ME AND TOOK CARE OF ME ALL HER LIFE! I WONDER WHY SHE DIED SO SUDDENLY?
WHAT A FOOL MAURY IS! HOW CAN HE BE SO STUPID, OR IS HE ONLY PRETENDING?

YOU MUST FORGET HER, DARLING! AFTER ALL, WE HAVE EACH OTHER NOW! AND YOU'LL GET ALL HER MONEY WHEN THE WILL IS PROBATED!
WHAT? OH, YES, THE WILL! I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT I DON'T CARE!

I—I DON'T WANT TO TALK, ROSE. I THINK I'LL GO UP TO THE ATTIC AND PLAY WITH MY TOYS!
WHAT! PLAY WITH YOUR TOYS? MAURY!

ROSE FOLLOWS IN A FEW MINUTES AND SPIES ON MAURY...
HE IS PLAYING WITH TOYS! HE'S GONE MAD! MUST HAVE BEEN THE SHOCK OF HIS WIFE'S DEATH! OH, THE GIBBERING FOOL!

THERE! I DID IT! SHE ALWAYS LIKED FOR ME TO PLAY WITH MY BLOCKS! HEH-HEH—I REMEMBER HOW SHE USED TO HELP ME! BUT NOW I'LL BUILD A NICE HOUSE!

BACK IN HER ROOM ROSE IS EATEN WITH RAGE AND FRUSTRATION...
THE IDIOT! WE CAN'T PROBATE THE WILL NOW! THEY'LL NEVER GIVE HER MONEY TO A MADMAN! I'VE BEEN CHEATED! I MURDERED HER FOR NOTHING! THEY WON'T EVEN LET ME MARRY HIM!

HA—HAH— THE WORST OF IT IS THAT SHE TRIED TO WARN ME! SHE HINTED THAT HE WAS CRAZY AND I COULDN'T SEE IT! WHY, HE MUST HAVE BEEN MAD FOR YEARS, AND THIS WAS THE FINAL PUSH! NOTHING TO DO NOW BUT GET OUT!

SUDDENLY THERE IS A GREAT CLAP OF THUNDER...
OH, THE STORM! THAT WIND, ALMOST TEARING THE HOUSE DOWN! THE WINDOW...

AND...
YOU! OH, NO! YOU'RE DEAD, YOU CAN'T!
BUT I CAN, MY DEAR! I ALWAYS LOVED MY HUSBAND, MY POOR DEMENTED MAURY! I'VE COME BACK TO PROTECT HIM FROM YOU!

YOU CAN HAVE HIM! HE'S RAVING! STARK MAD! AND I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
ARE YOU? MURDERERS NEVER WIN, ROSE! YOU WON'T GET FAR IN THIS STORM!

DON'T CARE ABOUT THE STORM! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY OR I'LL SOON BE CRAZY TOO!

WHILE INSIDE...
MY POOR DARLING! HE MUST BE IN THE ATTIC PLAYING AS HE USED TO DO! I'LL SEE IF HE'S ALL RIGHT!

THERE YOU ARE AT LAST! SEE — ISN'T IT A LOVELY HOUSE? I BUILT IT FOR YOU!

IT'S MARVELOUS, DARLING! DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING! I'LL ALWAYS TAKE CARE OF YOU!
I KNOW!

MEANTIME, DEFEATED BY THE STORM, ROSE SEEKS FOR SHELTER! ANY SHELTER...
C-CAN'T GO ON! I'LL STAND IN THE DOOR OF THIS, UGH, VAULT! ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN FACING THIS WIND!

THE DOOR! IT'S UNLOCKED! TH- I DID SEE HER! IT WASN'T MY IMAGINATION!

SOME DREADFUL COMPULSION DRAWS HER INTO THE COLDNESS OF THE VAULT...
IT'S BETTER IN H-HERE! I'LL JUST WAIT UNTIL THE STORM STOPS, THEN...

OHHH — THE DOOR!
SLAM

LOCKED! I'M TRAPPED IN HERE!
BAM
WHAM

AS THE TERRIFIED GIRL COWERS, SHE HEARS A VOICE — THE VOICE OF THE DEAD WOMAN...
NO ONE WILL COME FOR YOU — EVER! YOU'RE DOOMED! BUT THERE IS ONE WAY OUT! LOOK IN THE EMPTY COFFIN! LOOK IN MY EMPTY COFFIN!
IN HER COFFIN!

THE WAY OUT! THE SAME VIAL OF POISON! OHHHHH —

FOREVER AND EVER!

IT WAS AN OLD STORY... THE BEAUTY WITH A PROBLEM, AND THE HANDSOME PRINCE... BUT BEYOND THAT THERE IS NO RESEMBLANCE TO ANY STORY YOU'VE EVER READ! YOU'LL CHILL AT THE ACCOUNT OF THE STORM, BUT YOU'LL SHIVER AT THE ACCOUNT OF AN AMAZING DESTINY THAT ONLY THE LONELY NORTH WIND SINGS OF...ON DARK SNOWSWEPT NIGHTS!

HENRY JACKSON AND LEONARD WARD WERE PARTNERS AS GOVERNMENT AGENTS... SO WAS THE WIDOW SHAW... ONLY SHE WAS AWAITING THE SPRING THAW TO LEAVE THE NORTH FOREVER...

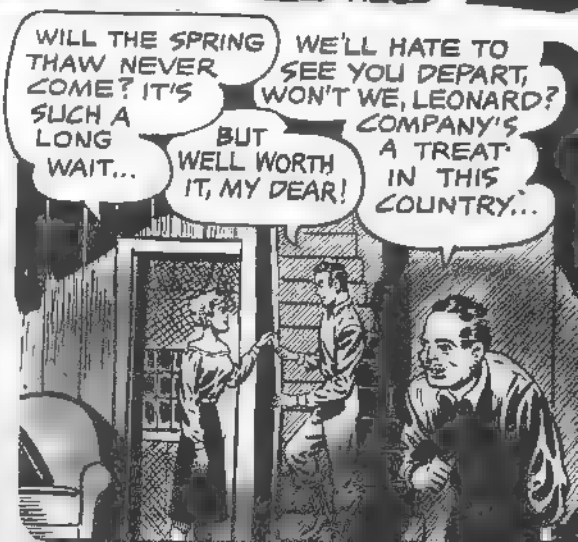
OH, THERE YOU ARE, MISSUS SHAW! I DIDN'T THINK YOU HEARD US! ARE WE VISITING TOO LATE?
NO. I HEARD YOU COME IN. IS L-LEONARD WITH YOU?

IS LEONARD WITH YOU, SHE ASKS! YVONNE IS SUCH A SWEET GIRL! AND SO CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR DEAR FRIEND!
SHE'S LONELY, HENRY! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR ANYONE TO LIVE ALONE. SHE APPRECIATES OUR COMPANY...

HELLO, YVONNE! WE WERE JUST DISCUSSING YOU!
HELLO, LEONARD... I'VE GOT SOME HOT COFFEE WAITING FOR YOU, GENTLEMEN!
WE ALMOST DIDN'T GET HERE! STORM'S BLOWING UP AGAIN... BUT LEONARD INSISTED UPON CHECKING IN WITH YOU...

AS LONG AS YOU'RE SAFE AND SNUG, WE'LL LEAVE EARLY!
BUT I THOUGHT WE WERE ALL GOING TO WORK ON THE GOVERNMENT REPORTS TONIGHT?
I STARTED IT, BUT I'D BETTER FINISH IT OVER IN OUR CABIN, YVONNE.

I NEVER GET TO SEE YOU LATELY, LEONARD...
I HAVEN'T TOLD HIM JUST YET, DEAR. IT HARDLY SEEMS FAIR TO FLAUNT OUR HAPPINESS IN THIS LONELY PLACE...
YOU NEED FUEL... I'LL FETCH SOME...

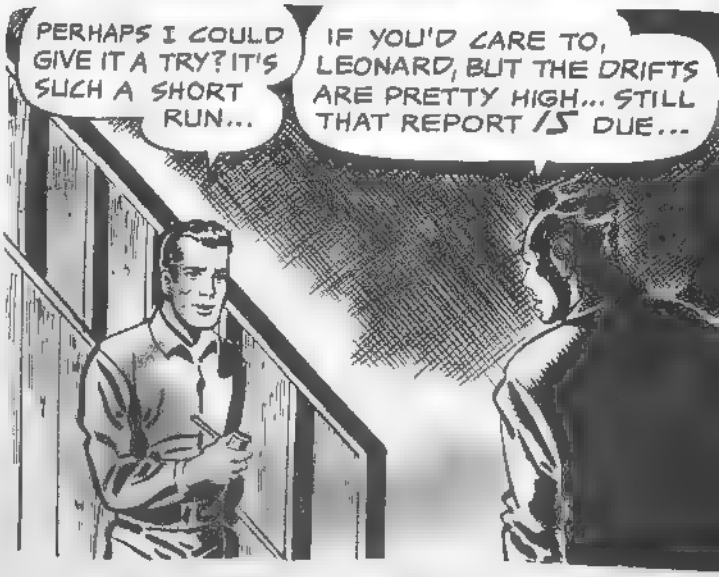

WILL THE SPRING THAW NEVER COME? IT'S SUCH A LONG WAIT...
BUT WELL WORTH IT, MY DEAR!
WE'LL HATE TO SEE YOU DEPART, WON'T WE, LEONARD? COMPANY'S A TREAT IN THIS COUNTRY...

AND THE FOLLOWING NIGHT AS THE TRIO MET ONCE AGAIN AT WIDOW SHAW'S...

LATER...

PERHAPS I'VE BEEN A WIDOW SO LONG, I'VE FORGOTTEN THE WAYS OF MEN...
YOU'VE LIVED A HARD LIFE, YVONNE, TAKING OVER YOUR HUSBAND'S GOVERNMENT JOB AFTER HE PASSED AWAY. BUT I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THINGS GO DIFFERENTLY BACK IN THE STATES...
YOU'VE MADE MY LIFE HAPPY ALREADY, LEONARD... YOU'VE GIVEN ME SOMETHING WONDERFUL TO LOOK FORWARD TO!
I'M THE LUCKY ONE... YOU COULD HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HENRY, YOU KNOW...
NEVER! HE'S SO MEEK AND PECULIAR...
THAT'S SILLY, DEAR! HENRY THINKS THE WORLD OF YOU! THE TROUBLE WITH HENRY IS THAT HE LOVES THE NORTH AND HE LOVES COMPANY! HE'D HATE TO BE ALONE... THAT'S WHY HE MUST MAKE PLANS FOR HIMSELF AFTER WE'VE GONE...
SO BUSY WERE THE LOVERS THAT THE SHADOW ON THE WINDOW WAS UNNOTICED...
IF ONLY THERE WAS SOME WAY TO PREVENT OUR PARTING, DEAR FRIENDS.

DOGS COULDN'T MAKE IT! I HAD TO TURN BACK...
HENRY! OH, YOU STARTLED ME!


PERHAPS I COULD GIVE IT A TRY? IT'S SUCH A SHORT RUN...
IF YOU'D CARE TO, LEONARD, BUT THE DRIFTS ARE PRETTY HIGH... STILL THAT REPORT IS DUE...

CONVERSATION SEEMED TO RUN OUT AFTER LEONARD LEFT... UNTIL HENRY HIT UPON AN IDEA...

PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE SNOW, YVONNE? STORM'S CHANGED THE WHOLE COUNTRYSIDE...

I'LL GO AND HITCH UP THE DOGS! I WON'T BE BUT A MINUTE... YOU GET YOUR PARKA...

REALLY, HENRY, I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD IF THE DRIFTS ARE AS BAD AS YOU SAID... B-BUT IF YOU WANT TO, I SUPPOSE...

DO YOU THINK WE COULD CATCH UP TO LEONARD?

I WOULDN'T ADVISE IT! THAT TRAIL IS WHERE THE HEAVY DRIFTS ARE... BESIDES WE SHOULDN'T GO SO FAR!

READY, YVONNE? SOMETHING WRONG?

NO... I'LL JUST LEAVE A NOTE FOR LEONARD TO TELL HIM WHERE WE ARE IN CASE HE RETURNS FIRST...

MAYBE WE'D BETTER TURN BACK, HENRY! THE WIND IS STARTING UP AGAIN AND THE SNOW SEEMS TO BE RETURNING...

PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT! WE'LL TURN HERE ON THE HILL! MUSH, YOU DOGS, MUSH!

BUT A SUDDEN SLIDE AT THE SNOWY SUMMIT, AND...

YVONNE! OH! YVONNE... WHAT SHALL I DO? TRY TO GRAB AT THE ICE...

HELP... I CAN'T, HENRY... OHH...

BREATHLESSLY HENRY ARRIVES AT THE CABIN, AND...
WHAT'S WRONG, HENRY? YOU'RE AS WHITE AS THE SNOW!
AN ACCIDENT! SHE FELL... YVONNE IS TRAPPED IN A DRIFT, COME QUICKLY!
GREAT SCOTT, MAN, COULDN'T YOU HAVE GOTTEN HER OUT?
NOT ALONE! TOO DEEP... OH, LEONARD, HURRY...

THE STORM IS BACK IN ALL ITS FURY! WE'LL NEVER FIND HER NOW!
THE TRACKS STILL SHOW... WE CAN FOLLOW THEM! I HAVE AN IDEA WHERE THE SPOT IS...

THROUGH THE SWIRLING, BLINDING SNOW, THE TWO FRANTIC MEN PUSH AGAINST THE ICY BLASTS IN GRIM DETERMINATION...
DON'T GO SO FAST, LEONARD, I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH YOU... DON'T LEAVE ME!
I'M NOT LEAVING YOU! DON'T BE A FOOL, HENRY, I'VE GOT TO FIND HER! YVONNE— YVONNE!

LEONARD! OH, LEONARD, I WARNED YOU! IT'S THE VERY SPOT! THE VERY SAME SPOT!

AND THAT WAS ALL... JUST THE WIND AND HENRY'S TEARS... HENRY, WHO WANTED COMPANY SO BADLY, HE WOULDN'T LISTEN TO THE NEWS HE KNEW MEANT A PARTING... AND THE TWO WHO WISHED TO BE TOGETHER WOULD BE SO... FOREVER...
NO— NO!
The End

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FRIGID FEAR!
REMEMBER THIS SONG — I'M THROUGH WITH LOVE, I'LL NEVER FALL AGAIN, I'LL PUT MY HEART IN AN ICY FRIGIDAIRE? — IT WAS MEANT TO BE A LOVE SONG, BUT THE WAY HUBERT SANG IT, IT WAS A DIRGE! FOR HUBERT HAD A WAY WITH WOMEN — A WAY TO DO AWAY WITH THEM, THAT IS! BUT YOU COULDN'T SAY HE DIDN'T PRESERVE HIS LOVES, BECAUSE HE DID! HE PUT ON A GRISLY AND VERY SPECIAL SHOW CALLED DEATH ON ICE...
BUT WANDA KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT SHE IS DOING... SHE THINKS...
A SHAME! A LOVELY GIRL LIKE WANDA MARRYING A FUNNY LITTLE GNOME LIKE HUBERT! WHY DO THEY DO IT?
THEY IS RIGHT! THIS IS HIS FOURTH— NO, FIFTH WIFE! BUT THEY ALL DIVORCE HIM! HE GIVES THEM A FORTUNE AND SHIPS THEM ABROAD! FUNNY, BUT THEY NEVER COME BACK!
HMMM — SIX MONTHS AND I'LL SUE FOR DIVORCE! HE GAVE EACH OF HIS OTHER WIVES A MILLION! BUT I'LL GET TWO MILLION — AND A CAR AND A YACHT AND THE JEWELS HE'S GIVEN ME!

AND WANDA HAS EVERYTHING A SELFISH AND SCHEMING HEART COULD DESIRE...

HIGGINS, WILL YOU PLEASE HAVE THE ROLLS-ROYCE BROUGHT AROUND AT ONCE! I HAVE SOME SHOPPING TO DO AT TIFFANY'S!

CERTAINLY, M'AM! AT ONCE, M'AM!

...INCLUDING SERVANTS BY THE SCORE...

HURRY, HIGGINS! YOU'RE SO SLOW! AND FIRE THAT NEW UPSTAIRS MAID AT ONCE! I DON'T LIKE HER!

FIRE HER! BUT, OH, VERY WELL, M'AM!

...AND FURS BY THE DOZEN...

BRRRR—IT'S COLD IN THIS VAULT! F-FREEZING! BUT THE COLD KEEPS ALL MY PRECIOUS SABLES AND MINKS IN PERFECT CONDITION!

AND WITH A LOCK LIKE THIS, NOBODY COULD EVER STEAL THEM! EVERYTHING WOULD BE—(SIGH)—PERFECT IF ONLY I DIDN'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH HUBERT! UGH! THE SIGHT OF HIM TURNS MY STOMACH!

SO WANDA FINDS VARIOUS WAYS OF AVOIDING HER TIRESOME HUSBAND...

BETTER HURRY, WANDA, DEAREST! WE'RE DUE AT THE EFFINGHAM'S PARTY! I WANT TO SHOW YOU OFF—YOU'RE SO LOVELY!

DON'T, HUBERT! YOU'LL MUSS MY HAIR! YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE TO BE KISSED THAT WAY!

ANYWAY I'M NOT GOING TO THAT OLD PARTY! I HAVE A TERRIBLE, SPLITTING HEADACHE! YOU GO ON WITHOUT ME!

OF COURSE, MY DEAR, IF YOU WISH! BUT I HARDLY EVER SEE YOU LATELY! I HOPE WE AREN'T—(AHEM)—DRIFTING APART!

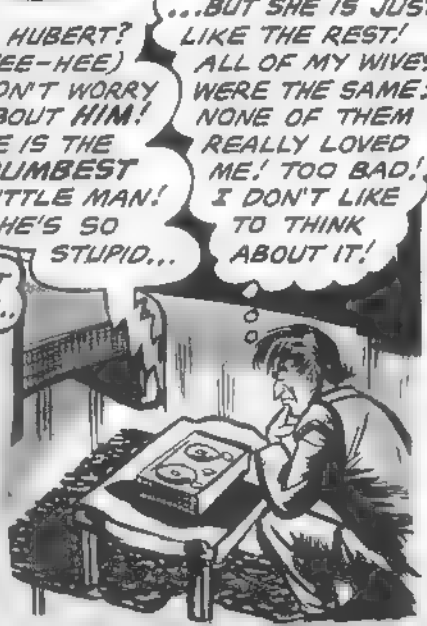
IT IS HARD TO DRIFT APART, HUBERT, WHEN YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN TOGETHER! BESIDES, WANDA HAS OTHER IDEAS ABOUT THE ROMANCE DEPARTMENT! ONE DAY...
THERE'S A MAN HERE, M'AM, APPLYING FOR THE JOB AS CHAUFFEUR! SHALL I HAVE HIM COME BACK WHEN THE MASTER IS HERE?
CERTAINLY NOT! SHOW HIM IN HERE, AT ONCE!

AS THE MAID LEAVES...
JOEL! OH, JOEL, DARLING! I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER COME!
SORRY, WANDA, BUT I HAD A— (CHUCKLE)— HARD TIME FINDING A UNIFORM TO FIT ME! I HAD TO RENT ONE!

WASN'T IT CLEVER OF ME TO THINK OF HIRING YOU AS A CHAUFFEUR, JOEL? NOW WE CAN BE TOGETHER OFTEN!
CLEVER, SURE! I HOPE YOUR HUSBAND DOESN'T GET WISE, THOUGH! WITH HIS MONEY AND INFLUENCE, HE COULD MAKE THINGS PRETTY TOUGH FOR ME!

HUBERT? TEE-HEE! DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM! HE IS THE DUMBEST LITTLE MAN! HE'S SO STUPID, HE THINKS I REALLY LOVE HIM! HIM! JUST IMAGINE!

HUBERT DUMB? MAYBE — BUT...
MMMMM — WANDA DOESN'T SUSPECT THAT I'VE PLANTED THIS TAPE RECORDER, THAT I HEAR EVERY WORD SHE SAYS IN THIS ROOM! REALLY, I'M VERY DISAPPOINTED IN WANDA! I THOUGHT SHE WAS DIFFERENT...


HUBERT? (TEE-HEE) DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM! HE IS THE DUMBEST LITTLE MAN! HE'S SO STUPID...
...BUT SHE IS JUST LIKE THE REST! ALL OF MY WIVES WERE THE SAME! NONE OF THEM REALLY LOVED ME! TOO BAD! I DON'T LIKE TO THINK ABOUT IT!

BUT SHE MUST GO THE WAY — THE WAY THE OTHERS DID! I MUST ARRANGE IT AT ONCE!
CLICK

SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

WHERE IS THE CHAUFFEUR, HIGGINS? THIS IS THE SECOND DAY! HASN'T THERE BEEN ***ANY*** WORD FROM HIM?

NO, M'AM! HE ISN'T IN HIS QUARTERS OVER THE GARAGE! SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED, M'AM! DO YOU WANT ME TO CALL THE AGENCY FOR A NEW MAN, M'AM?

NO, YOU FOOL! I WANT JOEL — THAT IS, I MEAN I WANT TO SEE HIM AS SOON AS HE COMES IN! IMMEDIATELY, DO YOU UNDERSTAND? I'LL BE IN THE FUR VAULT!

THE FUR VAULT, M'AM! OF COURSE! I'LL TELL HIM THE MOMENT I SEE HIM, M'AM!

WHEN SHE IS ANGRY, WANDA FINDS RELIEF IN STROKING HER EXPENSIVE FURS...

HOW DARE HE DO THIS TO ME? TWO DAYS WITHOUT A WORD! IF THERE'S SOME OTHER WOMAN, I — I'LL KILL HER! I'LL KILL BOTH OF THEM!

SPEAKING OF KILLING! SUDDENLY...

A B-BODY! ***JOEL!***

EEEEEEEEEEEE—

JOEL! D-DEAD! FROZEN STIFF! B-BUT HOW COULD HE — UNLESS — ***HUBERT!***

BEHIND HER THERE IS A SINGLE MENACING SOUND...

HAH-HAH-HAH! HO-HO-HO! HEE-HEEEE-HEEEEE—

THE DOOR! I'M LOCKED IN! ***HUBERT! NO!*** PLEASE LET ME OUT! I'LL FREEZE! HUBERT— ***AHHHHHHHH—***

CLICK

WANDA'S SPINE HAS ALREADY TURNED TO ICE! NOW, AS THE INTENSE COLD SETS IN...
AYEEEEEE — LET ME OUT! HUBERT! HAVE M-MERCY! I'M SO C-COLD! I'M — (SHIVER) — DYING! HELP! Y!!!!!!!!!!!!!—

THE C-COAT WILL KEEP ME ALIVE FOR A WHILE — OH, ANOTHER D-DOOR! M-MAYBE IT'S A WAY OUT!

NO, WANDA! IT'S A WAY IN...
WHY — IT'S ANOTHER! JUST AS — COLD, THOUGH! AND FURNISHED! IT'S A DINING ROOM AND THOSE — EEEEEE — THOSE WOMEN!

AHHHHHHH — BODIES! F-FOUR BODIES! F-FROZEN TO DEATH! BUT THIS ROOM — THEY — MUST HAVE BEEN HERE A LONG TIME! I —

FROM SOME CONCEALED AMPLIFIER A SEPULCHRAL VOICE FILTERS INTO THE ICY ROOM...
YES, WANDA! THEY HAVE BEEN THERE A LONG TIME! MY WIVES! FOUR OF THEM, AND ALL UNFAITHFUL! THE STORY ABOUT SENDING THEM ABROAD WAS JUST — (CHUCKLE) — FICTION!
HUBERT! PLEASE, NO! FORGIVE ME! LET ME OUT HUBERT! YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME OUT...
SORRY, WANDA! YOU'LL NEVER GET OUT! I NEVER GIVE UP ANYTHING THAT BELONGS TO ME! BUT I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN — WE'LL DINE TOGETHER, VERY SOON! HAH — HAH — HAH!
PLEASE! I — FREEZING — GETTING SO — I — HELP ME! I —
GOODBYE, WANDA! GOOOOODD BYEEEEEE...
UHHH — I — SO WARM NOW! CAN'T MOVE! SO DELICIOUSLY SLEEPY! I — I — UUUUHHHHH.—

THE NEXT EVENING, HUBERT KEEPS HIS PROMISE...

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF FOUR PEOPLE CAUSES SUSPICION AND A SEARCH! SOON...

DEATH is no STRANGER

SADIE MARVIN WAS ONE OF THE MOST TALENTED GIRLS WHO HAD EVER COME TO THE BIG TOWN. ONLY A VERY FEW KNEW HOW TALENTED SHE REALLY WAS... IN FACT THERE WERE **TWO** SADIES, ONE, THE LOVELY, DOLL-FACED SINGER OF THE CLUB INTIMO, THE OTHER, A CRUEL RUTHLESS KILLER...

WELL, I SEE YOU FELLOWS ARE HERE ON TIME TONIGHT. GOOD. THERE'S A CAPER ALL LINED UP, AND WE START OUT NOW!
AW, SADIE, WE'RE STILL HOT FROM THE LAST JOB WE PULLED.
HOT! YOU FOOLS DON'T SEEM TO REALIZE THAT THEY EXPECT US TO LAY OFF. THAT'S WHY THIS'LL BE SO EASY, NO ONE IS LOOKING FOR THE 'SHADOW MOB' TO STRIKE.

IT WAS A TYPICAL JOB. SADIE AND HER BOYS STRUCK SWIFTLY AND WITHOUT MERCY...
DIE! NO ONE STOPS SADIE MARVIN... NO ONE!
...AND AS ALWAYS THERE WAS A CLEAN GETAWAY, NO WITNESSES, NO EVIDENCE BUT THE COLD BODIES OF THE DEAD MEN WHO MARKED THE PASSAGE OF THE SHADOW MOB!

WELL, ANOTHER JOB, ANOTHER DAY. I HOPE THOSE TWO IDIOTS DON'T GET COLD FEET ON ME. BUT IF THEY WEREN'T CHUMPS, I COULDN'T CONTROL THEM!

GOOD MORNING, MISS MARVIN... THESE CAME THIS MORNING FROM THE SAME PERSON, BECAUSE HE SIGNED THE CARD, 'AN ADMIRER!'
I WISH I KNEW HIS NAME. IT SEEMS SO STRANGE, BUT HE'S THE ONLY PERSON WHO HAS REMEMBERED ME.
WELL, YOUNG LADY! HOW ARE WE TODAY? WE'LL TAKE THOSE BANDAGES OFF AT LAST, AND FIND OUT HOW MUCH DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE. BUT DON'T YOU WORRY, WHATEVER IS WRONG, WE CAN FIX UP EASILY...
I HOPE! B THE X-RAYS DON'T SHOW MUCH OF A CHANCE FOR REPAIR.

SADIE FINALLY SAW HER FACE... THE FACE OF A STRANGER, A HIDEOUS CARICATURE OF THE ONCE BEAUTIFUL GIRL SHE HAD BEEN...

SADIE WENT HOME. IN HER HEART THERE WAS NO HOPE, BUT EVERY MORNING CAME THE FLOWERS, 'AN ADMIRER,' THEY SAID, AND IT WAS LIKE A KNIFE, CUTTING HER WITH MEMORIES OF THE MANY WHO HAD SWORN UNDYING LOVE...
KNOCK KNOCK
HAH, THE FOOLS! BU I'LL FIX 'EM THE BOYS WILL BE BAC TOMORROW AND THEN WE'LL SEE!

MISS MARVIN, AN ADMIRER BEGS A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME.
UHH... COME IN!
MISS MARVIN, I HAVE COME HERE TO HELP YOU. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES, AND, ER... WELL, I HAVE LONG ADMIRED YOU
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO ADMIRE NOW! BUT, YOU'RE RIGHT. I DO NEED HELP. MOSTLY MONEY!

HERE IS A FEW THOUSAND TO HELP NOW. YOU WILL PROBABLY NEED MORE, SO I WILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU!
B-BUT WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
THE STRANGER LEFT WITHOUT ANSWERING, AND IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, SADIE WAS AT THE PHONE.
BUTCH! THIS IS SADIE, YEAH, I'M BACK! LOOK, I'VE GOT THE DOUGH FOR THE NEXT CAPER, SO GET DOWN HERE FAST, AND BRING TONY.

OKAY, SADIE, WE'LL DO THE JOB, BUT THERE HAS GOT TO BE A PATSY. HOW ABOUT THIS BOY-FRIEND O' YOURS?
SURE, I'LL LINE HIM UP FOR TOMORROW NIGHT. NOW YOU FELLOWS GET THE STUFF YOU NEED, AND I'LL SEE YOU THEN.
TRUE TO HIS WORDS THE 'ADMIRER APPEARED THE NEXT NIGHT...
LOOK, MISTER, I NEED HELP TONIGHT. THERE'S A GUY THAT OWES ME MONEY, AND WON'T PAY. I AND MY FRIENDS WANT TO SEE HIM, BUT HIS HELP WON'T LET US IN... THEY KNOW OUR FACES, ALL I WANT IS FOR YOU TO KNOCK ON THE DOOR.
WHY, OF COURSE, MY DEAR, I'D BE GLAD TO BE OF SERVICE.

IT WAS A TENSE, AND SILENT TRIP FOR THE GANG...
LOOK, FRIEND, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO, IS KNOCK ON THAT DOOR, AND ASK FOR ERNIE WE'LL DO THE REST. GOT IT?
WHY, YES, OF COURSE, ANYTHING YOU SAY!

UNSUSPECTING, THE STRANGER DID AS HE WAS TOLD... HIS FINGER SOON TOUCHED THE BUTTON... AND RANG THE BELL OF DEATH!
WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I'M LOOKING FOR A MISTER ERNIE.
OKAY, BOYS, THE DOOR'S OPEN... GO AND GET IT! I'LL SEE TO THESE GUYS!
COLDLY, AND WITHOUT FEELING, SADIE CROSSES THE BODY OF HER VICTIM TO REACH THE AWAITING LOOT...
UNSEEN, THE BULLET-TORN BODY OF THE STRANGER SLOWLY BEGINS TO RISE TO ITS FEET...
COME ON, FELLERS, STOP DRAGGIN'. THE COPS MAY BE HERE ANY MINUTE.
SADIE... SADIE!
YOU! YOU'RE DEAD! WHAT D-DO YOU WANT? B-BUT IT CAN'T BE, YOU'RE DEAD I TELL YOU!

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YES, I AM DEAD, SADIE... YOU KILLED ME, DIDN'T YOU? NO ONE CAN LIVE WITH ALL THESE BULLETS IN THEM... CAN THEY?
LOOK, MISTER... STAY AWAY FROM ME! I SHOT YOU DOWN ONCE, AND I'LL DO IT AGAIN!
YES, SADIE, YOU DID KILL ME... I SUPPOSE. BUT, REALLY, YOU KILLED SOMETHING FAR MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU... YOUR-SELF!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, MISTER... BUT ANYONE DIES WHEN THEY'RE SHOT... THERE... THAT'LL HOLD YOU... NO-NO... DON'T COME ANY NEARER...
YOU'VE HAD YOUR CHANCE, SADIE... BUT YOU'VE PROVEN THERE'S NOTHING IN YOU BUT GREED AND HATRED...
W-WHO ARE YOU?
YES, SADIE, YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE, BUT DEATH DOES NOT CARE HOW EVIL YOU ARE, FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD, YOU ALONE HAVE DESTINED!
I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE TO TELL YOU, SADIE.
COME, MY DEAR... I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...
The End